

Matsinger Forest

LAST WINTER, the Fairbanks Museum and Vermont Land Trust announced the creation of the Fairbanks Museum Nature Preserve at Matsinger Forest in Danville, Vermont. The 500+ acre parcel was given to the Fairbanks Museum by John and Barbara Matsinger to fulfil their vision for forest stewardship, environmental education, and community access to the natural world.

The creation of the Fairbanks Museum Nature Preserve at Matsinger Forest represents three decades of discussion and partnership between the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), the Fairbanks Museum, and John and Barbara Matsinger. In 1992, the Matsingers protected a 180-acre parcel by conserving it with VLT. Today nearly 390 acres are protected with VLT. Between 1992 and 2006, the Matsingers placed conservation easements on the property, while making provisions for the future use of the land for educational activities.

The Museum will use Matsinger Forest for educational programs and scientific research, while establishing a trail system and facilities for non-motorized recreation.



John and Barbara Matsinger

“The Matsinger Forest is the perfect wilderness complement to the Fairbanks Museum’s curated natural history displays.”

Executive Director Adam Kane

Tang Science Annex

AT LONG LAST, THE TANG SCIENCE ANNEX IS BECOMING REALITY!

We broke ground in 2022, and we’ve been watching the progress through a full cycle of seasons. Construction crews installed beams and raised rafters as snow fell and temperatures dropped. Every element of this structure reflects the historic nature of our main gallery and reinforces our commitment to natural science learning.



“Every contribution to this massive undertaking has made a difference,” says Board Chair Paige Crosby. “This is truly a community effort.”

The Tang Science Annex features:

THE FRED MOLD HALL OF SCIENCE, dedicated to the Museum’s director from 1948 – 1975. This gallery includes stations for inquiry-driving, hands-on play and discovery.

AN ELEVATOR to overcome the physical obstacles that have prevented people with mobility limitations from enjoying our balcony galleries.

THE PETER WELCH OBSERVATION DECK with interactive installations that interpret sound.

STOCKMAN FAMILY GALLERY, future home of the Build It! Lab during the winter months, and our Wildflower Table in the summer.

NEW CLASSROOMS and location for the Community College of Vermont.

THE FIRST STRUCTURE IN VERMONT TO USE INNOVATIVE MASS TIMBER MATERIALS and techniques using Eastern Hemlock, a stunning compliment to the intricate woodwork of our main gallery.

Outside, we’re eager to make use of the new Hughes Family Courtyard, which creates a central connection for our campus. A new Sundial and Outdoor Classroom, sponsored by the Peter F. Crosby Fund at Passumpsic Bank completes our commitment to learning with innovation.

DOORS TO THE TANG SCIENCE ANNEX WILL OPEN THIS FALL!

SUMMER 2023

JUNE 24 & 25
Rube Goldberg
Workshops

FAIRBANKS
MUSEUM
& planetarium

OPENING JUNE 17
Dinosaurs Among Us



INSIGHT



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FAIRBANKS
& planetarium
MUSEUM

1302 Main Street,
St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819-2224

CONTACT US AT 802 748-2372
PLANETARIUM PRESENTATIONS EVERY DAY!

MUSEUM HOURS
Daily, 10 am to 5 pm

fairbanksmuseum.org



APRIL 8, 2024

The Great

American Eclipse

Where will you be when the Moon completely covers the Sun? Mark Breen, director of our Lyman Spitzer Jr. Planetarium and producer of Eye on the Night Sky, invites you to experience “totality” at the Fairbanks Museum. You’ll find exhibits, NASA live-streams, and activities that allow you to experience this once-in-a-lifetime event to its fullest!

INSIGHT

what's HAPPENING

Build It! Workshops

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

*Ages 6-7, 9 to 11 AM
Adults, 4 to 7 PM*

SUNDAY, JUNE 25

*Ages 8-11, 9 AM to noon
Ages 12-16, 1 to 4 PM*



Create a Rube Goldberg contraption of your own design! Zach Umperovitch, the world's leading authority on Rube Goldberg machines, leads 4 workshops for different ages. Each program is an opportunity to test chain reaction logic, and story-telling skill as participants accomplish a simple task through multiple wacky turns.



Build It! Lab

Get your construction juices flowing throughout the summer in our creation stations. You'll find Legos, Rig-a-majig, Big Blue Blocks, Keva planks, and endless possibilities!

Stars in Our Eyes

SO MANY WAYS TO ENJOY THE NIGHT SKY FROM WHERE YOU ARE!

Eye on the Night Sky

Listen to Mark Breen broadcast weekdays on Vermont Public and accessible online anytime.

1ST THURSDAY, MONTHLY 7 PM

Night Owl Club

Engage in monthly conversations with Christian Hubbs and guests via Zoom.

Bring your questions about space travel, the latest discoveries about our universe, and cutting edge astronomy research to Night Owl Club. This interactive live-stream picks up current topics in space exploration and follows your lead. Night Owl Club happens on Zoom and Facebook Live. This virtual event is free and open to everyone.

JUNE 30

Holographic Universe Theory

Dr. John Perry, Senior Lecturer in Astrophysics at UVM.



AUGUST 5

Defending the Dark: Preserving the Night Sky in Maine

Screening and discussion.

Each member contributes to programs, exhibits, and events. You make it possible.

THANK YOU!

We're deeply grateful for lead sponsorship from Maple Capital Management.

FAIRBANKS MUSEUM & planetarium

1302 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, Vermont
05819-2224

MUSEUM HOURS

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PLANETARIUM PRESENTATIONS EVERY DAY!

CONTACT US AT 802 748-2372 OR
fairbanksmuseum.org



Design by Flek, Inc

OPENING IN EARLY JUNE

Butterflies are back!

OUR SHIPPEE FAMILY EYE CARE

BUTTERFLY HOUSE opens in early June with Painted Lady, Spicebush Swallowtail, Monarch, and Eastern Black Swallowtail caterpillars and butterflies. We started cultivating flowering plants in May to host and feed these and other native species through September. Some species arrive as pupae, and we wait for them to emerge as butterflies before they move into the display area. Some species produce eggs and go through a new generation (or two) over the coming months. We'll do our best to nurture them with a variety of host plants that give them sources of food and places to lay eggs.

Like the butterflies themselves, this exhibit changes with the weather. We'll introduce different butterflies and moths throughout the summer and encourage you to visit often, as the colors and movements are constantly changing.



Shippee
Family Eye Care, P.C.

OPENING JUNE 17

Dinosaurs Among Us

THE NEXT TIME YOU DODGE A PIGEON ON THE SIDEWALK,

watch a sparrow eat from a feeder in a backyard, or order chicken for dinner, know that you just had an encounter with a modern dinosaur.

Dinosaurs never really vanished from Earth. Most did go extinct, but their evolutionary

legacy lives on all around us, in birds. The exhibition **Dinosaurs Among Us** will highlight the unbroken line between the charismatic dinosaurs that dominated the planet for about 170 million years and modern birds. The panels feature large-scale color illustrations of familiar and newly discovered extinct dinosaur species as they would have looked in life.

Sponsored by
Community National
Bank and the
George W. Mergens
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Organized by the American Museum of Natural History in New York with support from North Museum of Nature and Science, United States; Philip J. Currie Museum, Canada; Museo de Ciencias, Universidad de Navarra, Spain; and Universum Museo de las Ciencias de la UNAM, Mexico, **Dinosaurs Among Us** explores the practically obsolete boundary between the animals we call birds and those we traditionally called dinosaurs.



"We're thrilled to be among the first Museums the country to display this intriguing exhibit. And we're especially pleased to include mounted birds from our historic collections that are referenced in the text,"

Executive Director Adam Kane.

Meteor Watch

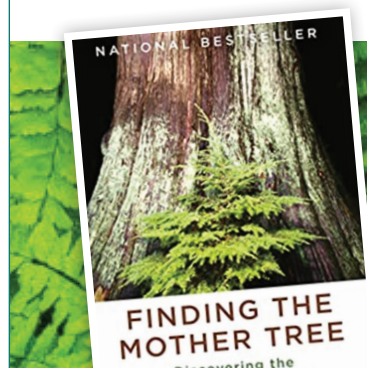
The Perseids put on a spectacular show with up to 60 meteors per hour at the peak of this annual meteor shower. These bright streaks are produced by the comet Swift-Tuttle, which was discovered in 1862. The shower comes into view on July 17 and continues to run through August 24. Your best bet for viewing is August 12 and 13, when the event peaks, and the crescent moon will not obscure your view. Plan for a night of astonishing night sky viewing around midnight, as the meteors radiate from the constellation Perseus.

Listen for Mark Breen's annual Stargazing Party on Vermont Public.

JUNE-AUGUST

Guided by the Next Generation

WHEN YOU VISIT THE MUSEUM THIS SUMMER, seek out one of our Franklin's Guides for an extra level of insight. Franklin Guides are students between the ages of 12 and 16, who work with Fairbanks educators to interpret our Shippee Family Eye Care Butterfly House, help with camps, and support ongoing programs. The Fairbanks Museum becomes their summer home, and we're eager to see them succeed!



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, September 30
Suzanne Simard, author of
Finding the Mother Tree

William Eddy
Lecture Series